

We Shall Strive for Perfection

a setting for a cappella mixed chorus
of a text adapted from speeches from 1945 by
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

by Mark Zuckerman
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We Shall Strive for Perfection is a work for a cappella mixed chorus on a text adapted from excerpts of speeches by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt from 1945, his last year in office.

From his Fourth Inaugural Address (January 20, 1945):

We shall strive for perfection. We shall not achieve it immediately – but we still shall strive. We may make mistakes – but they must never be mistakes which shall result from faintness of heart or abandonment of moral principles.

From his undelivered Jefferson Day Address (April 13, 1945), the text FDR was working on when he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage:

The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.

for perusal

We Shall Strive for Perfection

Duration: ca. 5'30"

Words: Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Music: Mark Zuckerman

$\text{♩} = 66$

Soprano *f* We shall strive for per - fec - tion. *ff* We shall strive for per -

Alto *f* We shall strive for per - fec - tion. *ff* We shall strive for per -

Tenor *f* We shall strive for per - fec - tion. *ff* We shall strive for per -

Bass *f* We shall strive for per - fec - tion. *ff* We shall strive for per -

Piano (rehearsal only)

7 *f* fec - tion. We shall not a - chieve it im - me - di - ate - ly but we

fec - tion. We shall not a - chieve it im - me - di - ate - ly but we

8 *f* fec - tion. We shall not a - chieve it im - me - di - ate - ly but we

fec - tion. We shall not a - chieve it im - me - di - ate - ly but we

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15

still shall strive. We may make mis - takes but they must nev - er

still shall strive. We may make mis - takes but they must nev - er

8 still shall strive. We may make mis - takes but they must nev - er

still shall strive. We may make mis - takes but they must nev - er

23

nev - er be mis - takes from faint - ness of heart or a - ban - don - ment of mor - al prin -

nev - er be mis - takes from faint - ness of heart or a - ban - don - ment of mor - al

8 nev - er be mis - takes from faint - ness of heart or a - ban - don - ment of mor - al prin -

nev - er be mis - takes from faint - ness of heart or a - ban - don - ment of mor - al

30

ci - ple. We shall strive for per - fec - tion. We shall strive
prin - ci - ple. We shall strive for per - fec - tion. We shall strive
ci - ple. We shall strive
prin - ci - ple. We shall strive for per - fec - tion. We shall strive

37

ff for per - fec - tion. *mf* We shall strive for per - fec - tion.
ff for per - fec - tion. *mf* We shall strive for per -
ff for per - fec - tion. *f* The on - ly lim - it The on - ly
for per - fec - tion. *f* The on - ly lim - it

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45

f The on - ly lim - it The on - ly lim - it to our re - al - i - za - tion of to -
fec - tion. The on - ly lim - it The on - ly lim - it to our re - al - i - za - tion of to -

8 lim - it The on - ly lim - it The on - ly lim - it to our re - al - i - za - tion of to -
The on - ly lim - it The on - ly lim - it to our re - al - i - za - tion of to -

52

ff mor - row will be our doubts will be our doubts will be our doubts of to -
ff mor - row will be our doubts will be our doubts will be our doubts of to -
8 mor - row will be our doubts will be our doubts will be our doubts of to -
mor - row will be our doubts will be our doubts will be our doubts of to -

f *mf* *mp*

The musical score is written for a choir and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system starts at measure 45 and the second at measure 52. Each system has four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'The on - ly lim - it The on - ly lim - it to our re - al - i - za - tion of to -' and 'mor - row will be our doubts will be our doubts will be our doubts of to -'. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). There are also triplet markings (3) over some notes. A large diagonal watermark 'for personal use' is visible across the page.

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7

60

pp *mf* *stringendo* *f*

day. We shall strive for per - fec - tion. Let us move for - ward Let us move

day. We shall strive for per - fec - tion. Let us move for - ward Let us move

8 day. We shall strive for per - fec - tion. Let us move for - ward

day. We shall strive for per - fec - tion. Let us move for - ward

68

a tempo *ff*

for - ward Let us move for - ward Let us move for - ward Let us move for - ward

for - ward Let us move for - ward Let us move for - ward Let us move for - ward

8 We shall strive We shall strive We shall strive Let us move for - ward

We shall strive We shall strive We shall strive Let us move for - ward

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75 *mf* *poco meno mosso* *a tempo* *f*

Let us move for - ward with strong and ac - tive faith. We shall

Let us move for - ward with strong and ac - tive faith.

Let us move for - ward with strong and ac - tive faith. We shall

Let us move for - ward with strong and ac - tive faith.

84 *rall.* *cresc.* *ff*

strive for per - fec - tion. with strong and ac - tive faith.

f *cresc.* *ff*

We shall strive for per - fec - tion. with strong and ac - tive faith.

f *cresc.* *ff*

strive for per - fec - tion. with strong and ac - tive faith.

We shall strive for per - fec - tion. with strong and ac - tive faith.